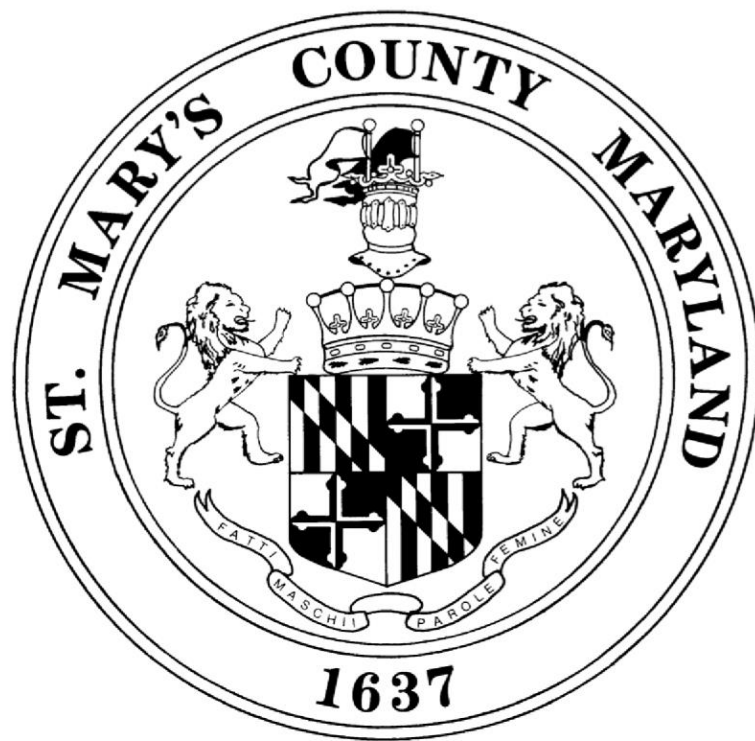


St. Mary's County Animal Control Advisory Board



2021 Annual Report

**ST. MARY’S COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD
2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

Introduction

The St. Mary’s County Animal Control Advisory Board (ACAB) was adopted as a Board on January 8, 2019, effective January 22, 2019.

The Board shall advise the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County (CSMC) on all matters relating to the development and management of the Animal Shelter and the St. Mary’s County Animal Control Ordinance. The purpose of the Board is to assist in animal shelter site selection, building design, emergency plans, policies and procedures. The Board will review and discuss budgets and operational plans of the animal shelter and advise on animal shelter staffing as well as spay and neuter policies. The Board will assist in the development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan for the Animal Shelter, serve as a liaison to the community to increase support and awareness of the Animal Shelter, and review and make recommendations on the Animal Control Ordinance.

The membership of the ACAB shall be eight (8) citizen members; the Animal Control Supervisor from St. Mary’s County Government or other member of Emergency Services designated by the Director (ex officio) and a representative from the St. Mary’s County Health Department (ex-officio).

Current Members	Position	Appointment Date	Expiration Date
Dr. Pat Richardson	Chair	07/01/2020	06/30/2023
Melissa Carnes	Vice-Chair	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Rita Weaver	Secretary	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Dr. David Langford	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Melinda Brown	Member	02/26/2019	12/31/2021
Cesar Afanador	Member	03/10/2020	12/31/2022
Steve Tuttle	Member	07/01/2021	06/30/2023
Diane Harris	Member	07/01/2021	06/30/2021
Susan Morris	Member (ex-officio)		
Joy Wilson	Member (ex-officio)		

Meetings

The ACAB meets 6 times a year, first Wednesday on odd months. St. Mary’s County ACAB met 5 times this year, starting out with a mix of virtual and in-person, and ending the year with all in-person. The September meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The November meeting hosted a guest speaker, providing information about the Trap, Neuter, Release Program (TNR).

Elections

Election for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary positions were held in January 2021. Dr. Pat Richardson was elected Chairperson, Melissa Carnes was elected Vice-Chair, and Rita Weaver was elected Secretary.

Shelter Site Selection and Building Design

The St. Mary's County ACAB was kept informed of the progress of the shelter design and building status. Wednesday May 5, 2021, the virtual online groundbreaking for the Animal Shelter was filmed. At the September meeting the ACAB members were informed of an increase in cost for the design process and unanticipated construction issues.

ACAB Subcommittees

The Animal Shelter Public Outreach and Education subcommittee met in August. The following topics were discussed and brought back to the ACAB meeting in September to discuss as a board.

- Engagement of animal organizations serving St. Mary's County prior to the opening of the shelter.
- Development of a recommended definition of the purpose of the shelter to be submitted to the Director of Emergency Services.
- A process for disseminating public information through social media with announcements, press releases, graphics and progress reports leading up to the opening of the shelter in lieu of an interactive process which may be premature at this time

Conclusion

The ACAB is dedicated to serving the citizens and domestic animals of our community by advising the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on Animal Shelter and Animal Control Ordinance matters. The shelter groundbreaking was held on May 5, 2021, and the county has made significant progress on the construction of the main building. The board has been provided drone footage updates on the construction. Due to the state and county restrictions put in place during Covid -19, the ACAB held virtual and in-person meetings at the beginning of the year, moving towards all in-person. The Animal Shelter Public Outreach and Education subcommittee met once this year and brought back ideas for discussion to the board. The year ended on a good note with the board voting to name the new shelter "The St. Mary's County Animal Adoption and Resource Center and to name the Animal Control section in memory of Antonio "Tony" Malaspina. The CSMC voted unanimously to approve both recommendations.

Questions or Comments about this report are welcome, and, may be sent to the Animal Control Advisory Board via the Secretary rweaver@smcps.org.